

Late Southward Migration of the Cape May Warbler on Long Island.— Doctor Richmond's record of a Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) at Washington, D. C., December 16, 1916 (Auk, XXXIV: 343) seems to make appropriate some account of this bird's southward migration the same year on Long Island where, also, the last one was seen in December. My latest previous record is October 12 (1912).

On my grounds at Hewlett, on the south side of the island, is an open grove of red cedars which evidently offer some particular attraction to these warblers on their southward journey, and where, of late years, they have usually been more or less common at the end of August and in September, not infrequently remaining continuously present day after day. In the spring they are less often seen in these trees, showing then a preference for oak woodland. Some of these cedars are close to the house and it has occurred in several years that the "first arrival," to use a conventional term, has been seen from the windows in the early morning. In 1916 the first one was thus seen on August 26 (earliest record August 20, 1914). No other was observed until September 3, and during that month they were noted only a few times, making it appear that it was an "off year" for them in this region. But in October, from the 2d to the 8th, there was an unusual late flight, as many as six and seven being present on my grounds on several days. After this a single one was seen on the 13th and 15th. It may be of interest in passing to report of this particular bird that it was to be found the greater part of each day feeding in a willow where the sap was running from a row of holes made by a sapsucker. Often it was seen clinging to the trunk of this willow and pecking at the sap holes, but whether taking the sap or feeding on entrapped insects I could not determine.

My young daughters, who had come to know this warbler as a familiar bird, reported one on October 27, and again one November 15, on each occasion describing their bird so unmistakably that there was no possibility of error. On December 4, they observed another one, evidently a male in rather high plumage for the season. It was not at all shy, allowing them to follow it about and watch it feeding in the garden border on the berries of a tree of *Eleagnus umbellata* whose abundant fruit remained in an unripened condition. The next morning I myself saw the bird, obtaining several perfect views at a distance of not more than a few yards, my daughters, who were with me, could detect no differences in its plumage from the one they had watched the previous day, and there was no reason to suppose it was not the same bird. Both days had been fair and unusually mild for the season, the temperature standing at 53° in the early evenings.

Many birds on their southward journey lingered unduly that mild season, and at Hewlett a considerable number of species remained later, some of them much later, than I had ever recorded them before. Most noteworthy of all, perhaps, was the Cape May Warbler. For this reason its occurrence on Long Island and at Washington in December would seem to be less in

the nature of accidental happening than in conformity with a remarkably retarded migration, not necessarily of the species as a whole, but quite possibly of a regional group acted upon, perhaps as long before as their breeding season, perhaps later, by some unusual inhibiting influence. The late occurrence of this species the same year in Massachusetts, at Belmont, November 15, 19 and 25, has been reported by Dr. Walter Faxon (Auk, XXXIV: 217).

It may here be noted that the northward migration of this warbler the following spring was also unusually late, this, however, being true of most of the warblers, the result of a phenominally cold and backward May. It was not observed until May 17, and the later dates of its occurrence were the 27th, a bright male and a dingy female, and June 3, a female; my latest previous record having been May 18, 1916.—EUGENE P. BICKNELL, *New York, N. Y.*

Rare Warblers at Hatley, Stanstead County, Quebec.—Notwithstanding the very cold and backward spring I have added two new warblers to my list (which now numbers 22 species), the Tennessee (*Vermivora peregrina*) and Blackpoll (*Dendroica striata*). Four examples of the former were seen between May 26–27, out of which two were obtained, and a male of the latter was seen at Ayers Cliff (about six miles from Hatley) on May 28 at close quarters, making identification absolutely sure. In addition to these between May 19 and June 2 may be mentioned twelve examples of the Cape May (out of which I secured three), Nashville, nineteen; Bay-breasted, twelve; Blackburnian, three; Northern Parula, one; and Water-Thrush, eight; besides numbers of all the commoner species with the exception of the Yellow which was again scarce as usual, only three examples being seen.—H. MOUSLEY, *Hatley, Que.*

Sap Drinking Habits of Warblers.¹—So far as I can gather very little is known concerning the above matter, for in the nine or ten pages devoted to the food of these interesting little birds in the standard work on their life history, not a word is mentioned about it, and the only reference I know of will be found in the Biological Survey, Bulletin No. 39 'Woodpeckers in Relation to Trees and Wood Products' 1911, p. 98, wherein the author, Mr. W. L. McAtee, speaking of some defensive measures against sapsuckers recommends poisoning the sap, but adds the following warning note, viz.: "It should be noted here that hummingbirds and some other small birds, particularly warblers, will be killed by poison intended for sapsuckers." From this we may gather that the habit is not altogether unknown, but the majority of people, I think, are unaware of it, certainly I have been paying special attention to this family for the past few years, but have never noted it until the fall of last year (1916) and therefore think my experience may be worth recording. It was on Sep-

¹ Read before the Nuttall Ornithological Club, May 21, 1917.